



GREATER PHILADELPHIA
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SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

The Joan Bressler
Set In Philadelphia
2026 Screenwriting Competition

October 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026

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ANNUAL SCREENWRITING COMPETITION

Hosted by: Greater Philadelphia Film Office

Coordinated by: Daniela Galdi (Director of Greater Philadelphia Filmmakers)

Assisted by: Joan Bressler (Former GPFO Director of Greater Philadelphia Filmmakers, SIP Co-Founder) & Brian Wade (Screenwriter, Professor, Director, SIP Co-Founder)

HISTORY

The *Set in Philadelphia (SIP) Screenwriting Competition* has long been a celebration of emerging voices in film and television. While its earliest years trace back to the *Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema* at Penn's Annenberg Center, SIP officially came under the Greater Philadelphia Film Office's wing in 2002 through Joan Bressler and Brian Wade, shortly after the launch of our "Filmmakers" Program. From the beginning, SIP was built on the dedication of talented readers, judges, and sponsors who believed in nurturing new storytellers.

In its early years, SIP offered both a Grand Prize and the Irene I. Parisi Award, established by acclaimed screenwriter Stephen Rivele in honor of his mother, recognizing a writer under 21. Over the years, additional prizes expanded the competition's reach — including a Student Prize, a Regional Prize, the Prime Time TV Prize, the Oscar Micheaux Award (for writers of the African Diaspora), and the Nina Lo Presti Award (for female writers).

SIP has consistently opened doors for writers — connecting them with industry professionals, mentors, and judges who often champion their work beyond the competition. Many applicants credit SIP with helping launch their careers through advice, opportunities, and exposure.

SIP has thrived because of the generosity of sponsors, the insight of judges, and the dedication of volunteer readers who bring passion and expertise to the process. That spirit of collaboration and opportunity continues to make SIP one of the region's most valued platforms for screenwriters.

In 2025, GPFO changed the screenwriting competition title to ***The Joan Bressler Set in Philadelphia Screenwriting Competition*** in honor of its co-founder for her 30 year commitment to the contest and film industry in Philadelphia.

MISSION & GOALS

Celebrate voices in storytelling while highlighting the opportunity and potential of Philadelphia locations by focusing on scripts that can be brought to life locally.

Build a network for filmmakers with well-known and active professionals in the film industry that may facilitate career advancement. [View past judges.](#)

Boost the local film industry & encourage authentic regional storytelling that reflects the diversity and richness of the Philadelphia area.

Support emerging & experienced screenwriters by offering industry professional feedback & exposure.

OVER
200
SCRIPTS
RECEIVED
ANNUALLY

CREATING
OPPORTUNITY
S I N C E
2002

AWARD
WINNING
JUDGES
A N D
READERS



WHO?

Open to all screenwriters, world-wide, who submit a feature length screenplay OR an original TV pilot length screenplay that can be shot in the Greater Philadelphia Metropolitan Area.

Writers do **NOT** need to be from Philadelphia, and scripts do NOT need to be explicitly set in Philadelphia. They must simply be **feasible to shoot in the Philadelphia region** (including surrounding counties).



WHAT?

All genres accepted.

Showcase the city and surrounding region as a viable and compelling setting for film and television.

A multi-prized screenwriting competition for feature-length or TV pilot scripts that could be filmed in the Greater Philadelphia region.

WHEN?



EARLY DEADLINE

October 31, 2025
by 11:59pm EST

\$75.00

Code: SIPEARLYBIRD
(includes processing fee)

FINAL DEADLINE

November 20, 2025
by 11:59pm EST

\$100.00

(includes processing fee)

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

April 2026



WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Support Creativity, Career Growth, Economic Impact & the Future of Film in Philadelphia

Each year, the Joan Bressler *Set in Philadelphia* Screenwriting Competition (SIP) shines a spotlight on storytellers whose work has the power to inspire, entertain, and elevate the regional film industry.

Presented by the Greater Philadelphia Film Office, SIP has become a cornerstone program for emerging screenwriters — connecting them with industry professionals, mentorship, and opportunities that help turn creative ideas into productions.

Your sponsorship directly supports these filmmakers while strengthening Philadelphia's presence as a go-to production hub. By contributing, you're not only investing in local & industry talent, but also fueling the creative economy that brings film, jobs, and visibility to our city.

Together, we can continue building a flourishing film community — one screenplay, one filmmaker, and one sponsor at a time.



COMPETITION PRIZE CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

Feature Length Screenplay

Grand Prize Winner

Prime Time TV Pilot

*The Oscar Micheaux Award for a
Regional Screenwriter of the African
Diaspora*

*Nina Lo Presti Award for a **Female
Screenwriter***

Content for Kids



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



FEATURE LENGTH SCREENPLAY GRAND PRIZE

Sponsorship Benefits

Promotional Recognition. Logo, name placement, and recognition on the SIP Competition and Greater Philadelphia Film Office websites, newsletters, press releases and media coverage, including social media highlights and tagged sponsor posts throughout the competition cycle.

Naming Rights. Opportunity to name and sponsor our existing feature length grand prize. (e.g., The [Your Company Name] Grand Prize for a Feature Length Screenplay).

Tax-Deductible Support. All contributions are made through the Greater Philadelphia Film Office, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and may be eligible for tax deduction in accordance with federal law.

COMBINED
PLATFORM
REACH
**OVER
32K**

READY TO SUPPORT?

CONTACT THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA FILM OFFICE

[CLICK TO CONTACT GPFO](#)

or EMAIL: DANIELA@FILM.ORG

Administration Fee Disclaimer. Please note that an administrative fee is applied to each sponsorship and is excluded from the total prize amount to support program coordination, marketing, and competition operations through the Greater Philadelphia Film Office.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



PRIME TIME TV PILOT



CONTENT FOR KIDS



**THE OSCAR MICHEAUX AWARD FOR A
REGIONAL SCREENWRITER OF THE
AFRICAN DIASPORA**



**NINA LO PRESTI AWARD FOR A
FEMALE SCREENWRITER**

Administration Fee Disclaimer. Please note that an administrative fee is applied to each sponsorship and is excluded from the total prize amount to support program coordination, marketing, and competition operations through the Greater Philadelphia Film Office.